

Northumbria Research Link

Citation: McLeod, Julie (2008) Why am I a Records Manager? In: Inaugural Professorial Lecture, 03 Jul 2008, City Campus East, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:
<http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/8298/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE



UniversityLibrary

Why am I a Records Manager?

Professor Julie McLeod
School of Computing, Engineering &
Information Sciences

Overview

- records management
 - what, why, how
- players
 - stakeholders; roles & responsibilities
- challenges
 - key ones & how being addressed
- conclusions
 - moving forward

A little piece of research...



Records management

“what, if anything, is records management?”
Chris Hurley, 2004

a very short history

...from Sumeria to cyberspace



Why manage records?

"Am I bovvered?"
Zoe Smyth, 2007 (after C&A)

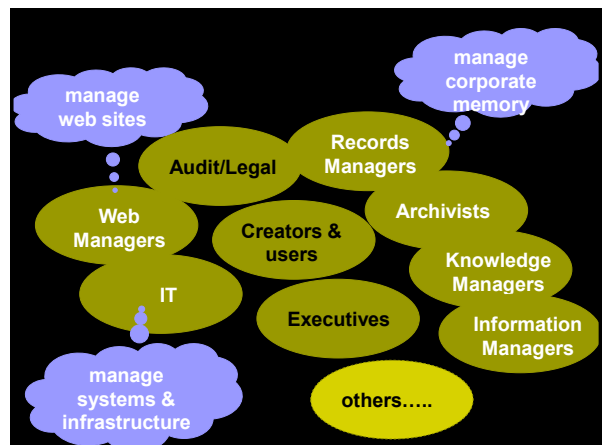
"records management is a valuable resource and an important business asset... [an RM system] can support subsequent activities and business decisions, as well as ensuring accountability to present and future stakeholders"
ISO 15489, 2001

No business case required!

How?



- principles
 - authenticity, reliability, integrity, usability
- theory & models
 - lifecycle, continuum
 - appraisal, classification
 - functional requirements for e-RM
- tools/best practice
 - ISO 15489, DIRKS, LC's Code of Practice under Fol



If everyone is a records manager...

... why am I a Records Manager?

"responsible for *all aspects* of records management, including the *design*, *implementation* and *maintenance* of records systems and their operations, and for *training* users on records management and records systems operations as they affect individual practices"

ISO 15489-1 (2001, 6.3)

If everyone is a records manager...

... why am I a Records Manager?



Today's & tomorrow's world



- connected
- complex
- constant change
- (de) centralised
- (non) custodial
- (un) controlled?

Today's & tomorrow's world

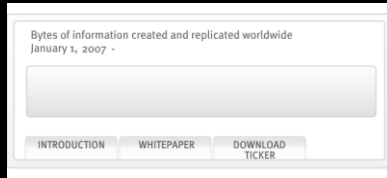


Web 2.0
"the most 'awesomely'
democratic
consequence of the
digital revolution"

Andrew Keen
The cult of the amateur 2007

Other consequences...

- volume of information



<http://www.emc.com/leadership/digital-universe/expanding-digital-universe.htm>

Other consequences....



"careless clicks can – and do – sink corporate ships"

Nancy Flynn, 2003

Courtesy of Mike Flanagan
www.flantoons.btinternet.co.uk/business/security.html

Some scenarios

- global business
- nuclear power industry
- electronic patient information
- personal/family context

Challenge #1

- The virtual record
 - "The record, not the remix, is the anomaly today. The remix is the very nature of the digital." Keen (2007)
 - the "liquid version" of the record? after Kelly (2006)
- What is the record? Where is it?
 - blurred lines

Challenge #2



- To keep or not to keep... that is the question

Challenge #3

- A digital dark age?

"oceans of information get 'saved' on file servers, on personal hard drives, CD-ROMs and DVDs but none of these are true archives. We have no guarantee that these will be readable or even usable in 50 years time."

Bruce Sterling, The Telegraph 14/3/05

Challenge #3

"digital information lasts forever - or five years, whichever comes first"

Jeff Rothenberg, 1995

Challenge #3

"we do not have the first email message, and no knowledge of its contents other than is was in upper case. Contrast this with how much we know about the first telegram (now digitised and on the web) or telephone message.."

Lloyd Grossman, 2002

Challenge #3

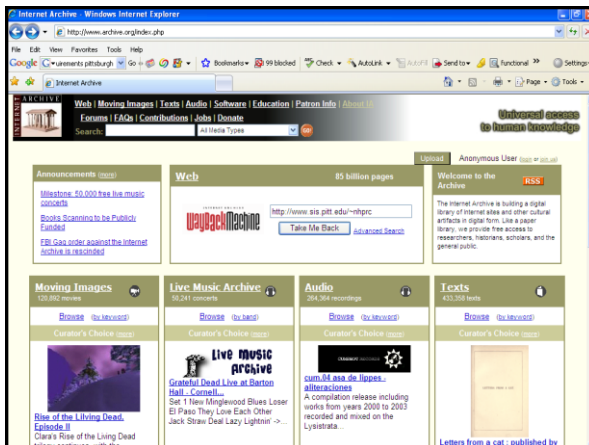
"Digital Domesday book lasts 15 years not 1000"
The Observer, 3 March 2002

In search of solutions

"Knowing is not enough;
we must apply.

Being willing is not
enough; we must do."

Leonardo da Vinci



Preservation & curation

- Conversion
 - move to another medium
- Migration
 - transfer from one hardware/software generation to the next
- Encapsulation
 - group record with whatever need to maintain access
- Emulation
 - 'mimic' original hardware and software environment

Retention management



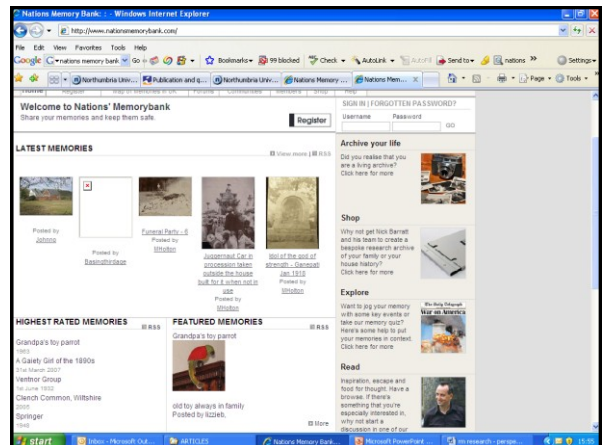
- review
- granular retention schedules
- keep everything?
- big buckets
 - risk assessment

Exploit technology

- for better records creation & capture
 - embed requirements
 - capture metadata
 - make systems work for us
 - hidden but not forgotten
- PhD – ‘continued communication’

Engage & educate people

- about records creation & capture
 - locating RMs with employees
- what will we pass on to the next generation?
 - “evidence of me” (McKemmish, 1996)
 - evidence of us
- The Nations' Memorybank
 - Nick Barrett www.nationsmemorybank.com



AC+erm



www.northumbria.ac.uk/acerm

Funded by AHRC

- accelerating positive change in ERM
- explore issues & practical strategies
 - designing the architecture
 - people, processes, technology
- approach
- PhD - risk & erm

Conclusions



"the autonomy of the individual reigns supreme"
McDonald, 1995

"that genie is out of the bottle"
AC+erm project participant, 2008



Moving forward

- "what is past is prologue"
Cook, 1997
 - new mindset, models & methods
 - new partnerships & relationships
 - evolution or revolution?
- "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication"
Leonardo da Vinci

Why am I a Records Manager?

Why am I a records
manager?

Why I am a records
manager

Acknowledgements

To *everyone* who has helped
make this happen - in any
way and at any stage of the
journey – my sincere thanks

In memory of my father
5 Aug 1933 - 3 Jul 1985